

Message Text

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71

ACTION SSM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 IO-13 INR-07 L-03

AID-05 CIAE-00 ACDA-10 NSC-05 DODE-00 SS-15 /080 W

----- 031675

R 181720Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION SINAI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1378

UNCLAS SINAI 2171

FOR SSM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: GREATER GIDDI CAMEL CHASE

1. SUMMARY: ON 17 NOVEMBER FIRST COOPERATIVE CAMEL CHASE WAS CONDUCTED IN BUFFER ZONE. THIS MAY HELP REDUCE POTENTIAL BEDOUIN THREAT IN EARLY WARNING AREA.

2. IDF REPORTED NOV 16 THAT IT HAD 15 CAMELS UNDER SURVEILLANCE IN GIDDI WADI BETWEEN SOUTHERN PERIMETER OF J-1 AND GIDDI ROAD. SINCE PURPORTED EFFORT BY GHANBATT TO LOCATE CAMELS SAME DAY WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, SFM REQUESTED AGREEMENT FROM UNEF HQ TO ASSIST GHANBATT BY FIXING POSITION OF CAMELS FOLLOWING DAY, IF CAMELS AGAIN SIGHTED.

3. AT 0820 HRS LT 17 NOVEMBER, AFTER MORNING FOG LIFTED, J-1 REPORTED NEW SIGHTING OF CAMELS IN SAME AREA. IDF PERMITTED SFM OPS OFFICER TO VISIT J-1 OBSERVATION POST TO HELP DIRECT GHANBATT PATROL TO AREA. WHEN PATROL ON FOOT REACHED POINT APPROX 1000 METERS WEST OF CAMELS QUARRY ROSE AND BEGAN MOVING RAPIDLY EASTWARD THROUGH GIDDI WADI TOWARD SFM CAMP. PATROL PURSUED ON FOOT UNTIL CAMELS EMERGED FROM EASTERN END OF WADI BETWEEN GHANBATT CAMP AND UMM KHISHEIB ROAD. FROM THERE SFM VEHICLES KEPT CAMELS UNDER DISCREET SURVEILLANCE AS THEY MEANDERED EASTWARD THROUGH GIDDI PASS. UNEF HQ
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WAS NOTIFIED OF CAMELS MOVEMENT TOWARD IDF TERRITORY

AND APPROVED EXIT VIA CHECKPOINT CHARLIE. WHEN CAMELS REACHED POINT APPROX 200 METERS FROM CP CHARLIE THEY BROKE INTO TROT AS THOUGH HEADING FOR HOME TERRITORY.

4. IDF COMMANDER AT J-1 WAS VERY COOPERATIVE IN ENTIRE EPISODE, PERSONALLY ASSISTING SFM OFFICER AT OP FOR TWO HOURS WITH USE OF US NAVY "BIG EYES."

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS IS SAME HERD OF CAMELS WHICH HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AREA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN PAST TWO WEEKS. IF IDF DOES NOT DRIVE CAMELS BACK INTO BZ, THIS COULD BE FIRST REDUCTION OF GROWING PROBLEM IN EWS AREA AS REPORTED REFTTEL. THORNE

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